

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 30, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. LOGAN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 390.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 390) authorizing the President to restore Capt. Dunbar R. Ransom to his former rank in the Army, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report:*

That they have carefully examined the papers referred with the bill, and find that Dunbar R. Ransom was a captain in the Third Artillery, United States Army; that on the 23d day of October, 1872, he was arraigned before a military court-martial, at the city of New York, charged—

1st. "With conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, in violation of the 83d article of war."

2d. "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in violation of the 99th article of war."

The specifications to both charges are substantially as follows: On the 14th day of May, 1867, Captain Ransom, then stationed at Fort Sullivan, in the State of Maine, borrowed from one John H. Sanborn, then the hospital steward at that fort, the sum of \$275, thereby placing himself under pecuniary obligations to said Sanborn. That said Captain Ransom had paid of said loan the sum of \$73.45 only, and that he had neglected to pay the residue of said loan when the same was demanded of him; but did, by several letters written from Fort Pulaski, in Georgia, ask the indulgence of Sanborn; also, his pardon for his delay in payment. Also, charging him with intent to deceive and fraudulently avoid the payment of the same.

Upon the trial of Captain Ransom on these charges and specifications, the court found him guilty of all, and sentenced him "to be dismissed the service of the United States."

Since the dismissal of Captain Ransom from the service, he has paid, or caused to be paid, the amount of money that he was indebted to the said John H. Sanborn, for the non-payment of which he was dismissed the service.

Your committee are of the opinion that his punishment has been severe; and, inasmuch as he served faithfully the government for seventeen years preceding this event without blemish on his character, that it is but just that the President be authorized to again appoint him in the Army, long service in which has unfitted him for any other employment or duty; and therefore report the bill back with an amendment, and recommend its passage.

The Committee on Military Affairs ask leave to withdraw Report No. 146, and file this in place of the same.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JANUARY 1, 1900

TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR  
FROM THE STATE OF

MISSISSIPPI

DEAR SENATOR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the disposal of the public lands in the State of Mississippi.

The proposed amendment is as follows: "That the lands in the State of Mississippi which are now owned by the United States shall be sold to the highest bidder for cash, and the proceeds thereof shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States, and shall be used for the purpose of purchasing land for the benefit of the people of the State of Mississippi."

I have the honor to inform you that the proposed amendment has been referred to the Committee on the Public Lands, and that the Committee has reported thereon to the Senate on the 15th inst. The Committee has recommended that the proposed amendment be passed.

I have the honor to inform you that the proposed amendment has been passed by the Senate on the 15th inst. and that it has now become a law.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. M. McKim